

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

26:OED

Statement of the
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Thursday, February 10, 2026
1:00 PM – Room 225, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 3011
RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING

Honorable Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and members of the Senate Committee on Housing:

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 3011 and offers comments. This measure requires the HPHA to allow any resident of a public housing project or State low-income housing project to keep one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions. Provides that the HPHA may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent. Allows the HPHA to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

HPHA currently manages over 5,400 federal low-income public housing units statewide. In these projects, HPHA already allows pets and has an established Pet Policy that tenants must follow. This policy was developed in consultation with the public housing Resident Advisory Board, reviewed through a public hearing process, and adopted by the HPHA's eleven Board of Directors after multiple opportunities for public input.

HPHA also manages 912 State low-income public housing units. Approximately 86% of this State low-income public housing inventory serves elderly and disabled residents. For these properties, HPHA has not implemented a general pet policy in order to preserve the quiet and peaceful enjoyment, safety and health of kupuna and residents with disabilities. This decision is informed by HPHA's operational experience in federal low-income public housing and includes concerns



such as smaller unit sizes, pets roaming common areas, injury to children and adult tenants, damage to units and common areas, increased maintenance and cleaning costs, liability risks related to pet-related injuries, and noise complaints that disproportionately affect elderly residents.

It is important to note that residents in both federal and state low-income public housing are already permitted to have pets needed for health or disability reasons through a Reasonable Accommodation Request, consistent with fair housing requirements.

HPHA also respectfully notes that many of its developments are large, high-density communities, with some properties exceeding 500 units. Implementing a statutory mandate to allow pets across all public housing without additional resources would present operational, safety, and infrastructure challenges at this scale. If the Legislature wishes to move forward with this requirement, HPHA respectfully requests consideration of funding to support appropriate infrastructure and services, including designated pet or animal parks, waste disposal stations, enforcement and education resources, and other measures necessary to protect animal welfare, tenant and staff well-being and safety, and State property.

HPHA looks forward to working collaboratively with the Legislature to ensure that any statutory changes preserve the Authority's ability to establish reasonable conditions, address nuisance or dangerous behavior, protect residents and staff, and maintain safe, well-managed communities—while supporting the overall well-being of residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for your continued support of public housing residents statewide.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 7, 2026

To: Chair Sen. Stanley Chang
Vice Chair Sen. Troy Hashimoto
and Members of the Committee on Housing

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 3011: Relating to Public Housing
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Capitol Room 225

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for Senate Bill 3011, which requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions; provides that the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent; and allows the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

Lack of access to pet-friendly housing is among the most common reasons that pet owners surrender their beloved family members to the care of animal shelters. In a 2024 survey of O'ahu households conducted by Ward Research, housing access topped the list of reasons residents had to surrender a pet to a shelter. Thirty percent of families who had surrendered a pet in the past five years, said it was due to an inability to be housed with their pet.

For some this is unthinkable and they will stay in abusive relationships or chose to become or remain houseless rather than give up their pets. In collaboration with Partners in Care, the umbrella group of social service providers on O'ahu, we added a question regarding pet ownership to the annual Point in Time count in 2019. The results confirmed what our Outreach and Field Services teams see every day. Pet ownership is extremely important to houseless individuals and families. In the 2024 count, 29 percent of the unsheltered on O'ahu reported owning at least one pet.

Hawai'i residents should not have to choose between keeping their family intact or having a roof over their heads.

While public housing under the direct management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority allows pets, it does so under antiquated restrictions. This bill adopts the more progressive language of the California public housing statute, which prohibits restrictions based on breed or size; but allows those that account for the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal. It also would require the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors to allow pets. This would open hundreds of additional units to pet owners as they become available.

Please pass SB 3011 and open state and federally funded housing in Hawai'i to our most vulnerable families and their animal companions. Mahalo for your consideration.



1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100
humaneworld.org

Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States

Hawai'i Senate Committee on Housing
Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Humane World for Animals in Support of SB 3011

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing:

On behalf of Humane World for Animals, formerly the Humane Society of the United States, and our Hawaiian supporters, we write in strong support of Senate Bill 3011, which will improve access to affordable rental housing for low-income pet owners by expanding pet-inclusive policies in state-funded public housing.

Across Hawai'i, there is a severe shortage of rental homes for extremely low and low-income households. Each year, the state's median gross rent continues to climb, and as housing costs outpace renter incomes, more families need assistance finding a safe, stable place to call home. As the supply of affordable housing shrinks, it is critical to address every barrier to shelter. For many tenants, finding a home that will accept pets is non-negotiable. In fact, the companionship and security pets provide are so important that some people will forgo shelter or essential services because their pet is not welcome.

The majority of U.S. households have a pet, yet many housing policies continue to exclude pet owners. SB 3011 helps address this gap by requiring public housing authorities (PHAs) to allow pets in their units, ensuring that pet owners are not unfairly denied housing.

While "pet-friendly" rentals may appear abundant, most include arbitrary restrictions on dog breed and weight. These restrictions are particularly common in affordable housing, including the Hawaii Public Housing Authority units. Such policies effectively eliminate a large percentage of family dogs and create additional challenges for low-income families, making the unconditional love of a pet something only people with means can experience.

Most troubling, these restrictions are not based on science or data, but on misinformation and myths about dog breed or size. The result is that families throughout the state, already grappling with the housing shortage and soaring rent prices, lose opportunities for stable housing due to inflexible pet restrictions and exorbitant pet related fees.

Pets are part of our families, and everyone should have access to affordable housing that welcomes the entire family. To prevent further displacement of vulnerable families and keep pets and their people together, we urge a favorable vote on SB 3011. This bill will improve access to affordable housing while ensuring that all families can enjoy the well-documented benefits of the human-animal bond, regardless of income-level.

Sincerely,

Jessica Simpson
Program Manager, Public and Corporate Policy, Companion Animals
Humane World for Animals
jsimpson@humaneworld.org

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:18:05 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB3011 - the aims of which we in Britain are also working to implement - requires the removal of arbitrary companion animal restrictions from public housing under the direct management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. While those properties allow pets, they place restrictions on breed and size that threaten the human-animal bond.

This is so important. People would have to choose between refusing accommodation that imposes such restrictions, or having to find another guardian for their companion animals.

This bill adopts the more progressive language of the California public housing statute, which prohibits restrictions based on breed or size; but allows those that account for the type of housing accommodation and the behaviour of the animal.

It is also good that the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors should also allow companion animals, which would open hundreds of additional units to companion owner guardians as they become available.

We beg to strongly support this Bill.

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:19:53 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sarah haynes	Testifying for kitty charm farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill [#SB3011](#)

**For many residents of Hawai`i, the dream of having a pet is often met with insurmountable housing barriers.

**According to a recent national survey, Hawai`i has the lowest percentage of pet-friendly rentals of all the states in the country: 39% compared to 75% nationwide.

**Every Humane Society in the state is overwhelmed with relinquished, stray and abandoned animals. The lack of pet-friendly housing in the islands plays a major role.

**Pets are considered “family” to many. According to scientific evidence, pets contribute to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of their owners.

**SB3011 is an important step in acknowledging – and addressing – the importance of the human-animal bond.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:16:42 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

3011 SB RELATING TO PUBLIC HOUSING.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [SB3011](#) Relating to Public Housing

This bill requires the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to allow any resident of a public housing project or state low-income housing project to keep one or more pet animals in the resident's unit, subject to applicable state laws, county ordinances, and any reasonable conditions. Provides that the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority may charge a refundable deposit for each pet animal but shall not impose a monthly pet fee or pet rent. Allows the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to remove a vicious animal to protect persons or property.

I strongly support this bill.

Signed,

Judith Aikawa, MD
37 Apali Way
Kula, HI 96790

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:36:41 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:35:36 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Chang, Vice Chair Senator Hashimoto and Members of the Committee on Housing.

Please support HB 3011 which, to my understanding, would be very helpful to public housing residents and their pets. This bill would remove arbitrary pet restrictions from public housing and have more progressive language whereby restrictions based on breed or size would be prohibited but restrictions based on type of housing accommodation and behavior of an animal would be allowed. The requirement that private contractor managers in the Hawaii Public Housing Authority inventory allow pets would open up potentially hundreds of units as they become available to pet owners.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:44:05 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Removes arbitrary pet restrictions from public housing under the direct management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. While those properties allow pets, they place restrictions on breed and size that threaten the human-animal bond. This bill adopts the more progressive language of the California public housing statute, which prohibits restrictions based on breed or size; but allows those that account for the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal.
- Requires that the HPHA inventory, that is managed by private contractors , also allows pets, which would open hundreds of additional units to pet owners as they become available.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:04:21 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support for more housing for low income pet owners

Hawaii Kai voter

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:08:46 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jane Arnold and I live in Kaimuki. I am testifying in favor of SB3011, which would require that Public Housing and state low-income housing allow pets.

Only 37% of rentals in Hawaii allow pets. This is the lowest percentage in the US. I am a renter and have 2 cats, so I know from personal experience how difficult it is to find a place to live that allows pets.

29% of homeless people have pets, and many of them choose to live on the street rather than surrender their pets. This bill would help many of them to find permanent housing.

Thank you for supporting SB3011.

Jane Arnold

1763 Iwi Way

Honolulu, HI. 96816

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:38:46 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill #SB3011

For many residents of Hawai`i, the dream of having a pet is often met with insurmountable housing barriers.

According to a recent national survey, Hawai`i has the lowest percentage of pet- friendly rentals of all the states in the country: 39% compared to 75% nationwide.

Every Humane Society in the state is overwhelmed with relinquished, stray and abandoned animals. The lack of pet-friendly housing in the islands plays a major role.

Pets are considered “family” to many. According to scientific evidence, pets contribute to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of their owners.

SB3011 is an important step in acknowledging – and addressing – the importance of the human-animal bond.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:39:08 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ulli James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Permitting pets in Hawaii rentals, as proposed in bill SB three zero one one, is vital because these animals are sentient creatures with emotions, attachments, and rights to dignity—not mere property. In a state where housing is scarce and stress runs high, owning a dog or cat slashes anxiety, curbs violence, and steadies the mind; studies show pet-owners fight less, sleep better, and smile more. Without them, folks stay wound-up, aggressive, ready to explode. So pass SB three zero one one—let pets in, let people breathe and relax!

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:27:19 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg "Pu'uwai Aloha" Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB3011, which ensures that residents of Hawai‘i public housing and state low-income housing projects are allowed to keep companion animals in their homes under reasonable conditions.

Access to companion animals is not a luxury — it is a basic component of emotional wellbeing, community stability, and humane public policy. For many residents, particularly kūpuna, disabled individuals, and families facing economic hardship, pets provide essential companionship, mental health support, and a sense of purpose.

This bill appropriately balances compassion with responsibility by:

- Allowing reasonable conditions such as nuisance policies, leash requirements, and unit-appropriate limits;
- Permitting refundable deposits while preventing burdensome monthly pet rent that disproportionately harms low-income residents;
- Allowing removal of animals that pose genuine safety risks;
- Preventing blanket breed or size discrimination, which is widely recognized as ineffective and inequitable.

Importantly, restricting pets in affordable housing often leads to increased pet abandonment, overcrowded shelters, and unnecessary euthanasia — outcomes that harm both animals and the broader community.

Supporting responsible pet ownership in public housing:

- Strengthens housing stability
- Improves resident mental health
- Reduces strain on animal shelters and public resources
- Reflects Hawai‘i’s values of compassion, kuleana, and community care

I strongly urge passage of SB3011.

Mahalo for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Greg Baker

Hawai'i County Resident

[Optional affiliation: Hawai'i Animal Advocacy / Kahu Popoki / Hawaii Cat Coalition]

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:51:07 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to allow, within applicable laws, residents of public housing or low income housing to own pets, and not be subject to unreasonable fees such as monthly pet fees or pet rent. Refundable deposits would be considered appropriate if reasonable.

I believe this is an important step in the right direction to afford citizens the well-being and companionship attributes that a pet can offer an individual or family. This would further encourage the resident to maintain the residence and engender responsibility not only toward the pet but to their residence housing. It's a win-win for all involved.

Sincerely,

Sherry Foster

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:00:46 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Jonsdottir	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB3011, which ensures that residents of Hawai‘i public housing and state low-income housing projects are allowed to keep companion animals in their homes under reasonable conditions.

Access to companion animals is not a luxury — it is a basic component of emotional wellbeing, community stability, and humane public policy. For many residents, particularly kūpuna, disabled individuals, and families facing economic hardship, pets provide essential companionship, mental health support, and a sense of purpose.

This bill appropriately balances compassion with responsibility by:

- Allowing reasonable conditions such as nuisance policies, leash requirements, and unit-appropriate limits;
- Permitting refundable deposits while preventing burdensome monthly pet rent that disproportionately harms low-income residents;
- Allowing removal of animals that pose genuine safety risks;
- Preventing blanket breed or size discrimination, which is widely recognized as ineffective and inequitable.

Importantly, restricting pets in affordable housing often leads to increased pet abandonment, overcrowded shelters, and unnecessary euthanasia — outcomes that harm both animals and the broader community.

Supporting responsible pet ownership in public housing:

- Strengthens housing stability
- Improves resident mental health
- Reduces strain on animal shelters and public resources

- Reflects Hawai‘i’s values of compassion, kuleana, and community care

I strongly urge passage of SB3011.

Mahalo for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Lorraine Jonsdottir

Hawai‘i County Resident

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:16:49 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of. Thank you.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:11:59 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sophianada rowan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of bill [#SB3011](#)

**For many residents of Hawai`i, the dream of having a pet is often met with insurmountable housing barriers.

** Untold emotional suffering is caused to both humans and their beloved pets when there is a need to let go of this 'family member' because of landlords who do not allow pets.

**According to a recent national survey, Hawai`i has the lowest percentage of pet-friendly rentals of all the states in the country: 39% compared to 75% nationwide.

**Every Humane Society in the state is overwhelmed with relinquished, stray and abandoned animals. The lack of pet-friendly housing in the islands plays a major role.

**Pets are considered “family” to many. According to scientific evidence, pets contribute to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of their owners.

**SB3011 is an important step in acknowledging – and addressing – the importance of the human-animal bond.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:20:16 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Earle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3011.

I believe it is important to allow for people in public housing to have a pet. Animals are healing in many ways, supportive in mental health and are a part of people's families such as any other member. Because we have such a limited amount of housing that allows animals, we as a community see 100s of dogs,cats and other animals left behind. This causes our shelters to be overwhelmed, animals to suffer and asks community to steps up to take care of these animals in distress. We as a community are running out of resources to aid and house the animals that are being pushed out of options for housing. The families that end up needing to rehome their animals suffer great loss in guilt and sadness. Allowing families to have pets would assist many issues such as break-ins, overcrowding in the shelter, wild/feral animals running the streets who have been let go without neutering or spaying, as well as allowing families to live in love and comfort with their pets without worrying about losing them.

as a responsible pet owner, I believe we as a community can change so much suffering and sadness with this one bill.

Mahalo

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:27:08 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia rowan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB3011, which ensures that residents of Hawai‘i public housing and state low-income housing projects are allowed to keep companion animals in their homes under reasonable conditions.

Access to companion animals is not a luxury — it is a basic component of emotional wellbeing, community stability, and humane public policy. For many residents, particularly kūpuna, disabled individuals, and families facing economic hardship, pets provide essential companionship, mental health support, and a sense of purpose.

This bill appropriately balances compassion with responsibility by:

Allowing reasonable conditions such as nuisance policies, leash requirements, and unit-appropriate limits;

Permitting refundable deposits while preventing burdensome monthly pet rent that disproportionately harms low-income residents;

Allowing removal of animals that pose genuine safety risks;

Preventing blanket breed or size discrimination, which is widely recognized as ineffective and inequitable.

Importantly, restricting pets in affordable housing often leads to increased pet abandonment, overcrowded shelters, and unnecessary euthanasia — outcomes that harm both animals and the broader community.

Supporting responsible pet ownership in public housing:

Strengthens housing stability

Improves resident mental health

Reduces strain on animal shelters and public resources

Reflects Hawai'i's values of compassion, kuleana, and community care

I strongly urge passage of SB3011.

Mahalo for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Sophia Rowan

Kahului, Maui

Hawai'i County Resident

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:20:51 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3011. It will be so welcomed in our communities. It will help our citizens and our animal issue because less animals will be abandoned to the shelter or dumped. Please take action to help our community members with pets. After our fire in Lahaina it was devastating for people to lose everything and then have to give up their pets that survived the fire. Many people chose homelessness instead. We need to do better, pets are family.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:05:30 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a long-time resident of Maui, in strong support of bill SB3011. There is no question that pets make a huge contribution to the well-being of their owners. For many people their companion animal is their closest family member. In Hawai'i it's exceptionally difficult to find a rental that allows pets. The humane societies in our state are overwhelmed with animals, including many pet surrenders due to the lack of housing accommodations. SB3011 would be an important step toward solving this devastating problem in Hawai'i. Please vote yes on this important bill. Thank you.

Sara Patton * 160 River Road, Wailuku (Waihee Valley)

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:33:06 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ute K Finch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If anything, the Lahaina fire...with all the displaced families...showed us that housing that allows pets is badly needed. By allowing folks to have their animals in their units, this would greatly lower the number of dumped animals on the islands and of course support the human-animal bond that so many enjoy.

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:02:48 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. The shelters are overwhelmed with animals due to the lack of housing that allows pets. Having an animal can greatly increase quality of life for humans and for the animals that need to be housed. Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Roberts

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:47:06 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong SUPPORT of SB3011 allowing any resident of a public housing or state low income housing project to keep one or more pet animal in the residents unit. Housing limitations is one of the primary obstacles for many residents to have a pet. This bill requires the removal of arbitrary pet restrictions from public housing. The human-animal bond and the emotional benefit for families to have a pet must be considered. This bill requires that the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors also allow pets which would open up hundreds of additional units to pet owners. WE need our housing laws to align with the demands of our community, families want to have domestic pets.

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:12:24 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Heisel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For support of Bill SB3011

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB3011, which ensures that residents of Hawai‘i public housing and state low-income housing projects are allowed to keep companion animals in their homes under reasonable conditions.

Access to companion animals is not a luxury — it is a basic component of emotional wellbeing, community stability, and humane public policy. For many residents, particularly kūpuna, disabled individuals, and families facing economic hardship, pets provide essential companionship, mental health support, and a sense of purpose.

This bill appropriately balances compassion with responsibility by:

Allowing reasonable conditions such as nuisance policies, leash requirements, and unit-appropriate limits;

Permitting refundable deposits while preventing burdensome monthly pet rent that disproportionately harms low-income residents;

Allowing removal of animals that pose genuine safety risks;

Preventing blanket breed or size discrimination, which is widely recognized as ineffective and inequitable.

Importantly, restricting pets in affordable housing often leads to increased pet abandonment, overcrowded shelters, and unnecessary euthanasia — outcomes that harm both animals and the broader community.

Supporting responsible pet ownership in public housing:

Strengthens housing stability

Improves resident mental health

Reduces strain on animal shelters and public resources

Reflects Hawai'i's values of compassion, kuleana, and community care

I strongly urge passage of SB3011.

Mahalo for your leadership and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Heisel

Hawai'i County Resident

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:54:14 PM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to express my strong support of SB3011. This bill will go a long way to assist in reducing pet abandonment and thereby protecting the environment. It also allows families to keep their pets, fostering humane treatment of companion animals.

Renee Rabb

Keaau Hawaii

Big island

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:47:54 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure:

- Requires the removal of arbitrary pet restrictions from public housing under the direct management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. While those properties allow pets, they place restrictions on breed and size that threaten the human-animal bond. This bill adopts the more progressive language of the California public housing statute, which prohibits restrictions based on breed or size; but allows those that account for the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal.
- Requires that the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors also allows pets, which would open hundreds of additional units to pet owners as they become available.

LATE

SB-3011

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:10:00 AM

Testimony for HOU on 2/10/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB3011.

This important bill requires the removal of arbitrary pet restrictions from public housing under the direct management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. This bill adopts the more progressive language already in use of the California public housing statute, which prohibits restrictions based on breed or size; but allows those that account for the type of housing accommodation and the behavior of the animal.

By requiring that the HPHA inventory that is managed by private contractors also allow pets, hundreds of additional units to pet owners would open up as they become available.

People should not be discriminated against, and not have housing, because they care for animals and love all life!

Please pass this important bill!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita
lifelong resident and voter!